

ABSTRACT

A data reading apparatus for reading and/or scanning data from a first and second scanned medium comprising a first transportation path P1, along which the first scanned medium is conveyed and a second transportation path P2, along which the second scanned medium is conveyed and wherein the first and second transportation paths each have a common mutually shared middle transportation path through which both scanned media must pass and a common data reader reading data from each scanned medium respectively. Checks S are conveyed on the first transportation path P1, cards C are conveyed on the second transportation path P2 at a different transportation height from that of the first transportation path P1 with data read from the respective media as they are being conveyed. Because the transportation heights differ, scanned media can be transported on different transportation paths without involving special switching devices.